

# Agriview



**Adding value  
to agriculture**

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# Minister's Message



*Lyle Stewart*  
Lyle Stewart

Agriculture is driving long-term, sustainable growth in our province and is a key factor in securing economic prosperity for current and future generations in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth sets out a vision for the province to become a global leader by 2020, and builds upon our strengths – people, resources and innovation. It also contains specific goals related to agriculture; specifically around crop production, exports, agriculture research, livestock and value-added.

Our government has developed strategies to support the agriculture industry in reaching these goals, and our industry has responded positively. We have proven that Saskatchewan is a leader in agriculture production and exports. We now have the opportunity to capture more of that value closer to home.

Saskatchewan already has a strong base of agriculture value added business, including oil crushing, milling, malting and ingredient extraction. To ensure continued growth in the value added sector, the Ministry has developed an Agriculture Value Added Strategy. The strategy outlines key actions on how we can facilitate growth in the value added sector to increase value added revenue by 45 per cent to \$6 billion by 2020.

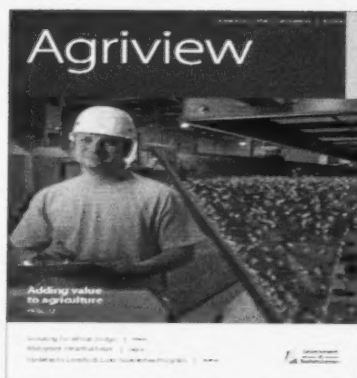
To grow the agriculture value-added sector and achieve our goal, we will focus on creating a climate where value-added businesses can grow and promote Saskatchewan to potential investors. By focusing our efforts, working together and following a strategic plan, I am confident that we will be able to meet this target.

Our government has also introduced and enhanced a number of programs to support value-added processors; these include the Saskatchewan Lean Improvement in Manufacturing (SLIM) and the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI) programs. These programs encourage processors to adopt best practices, new technologies and state of the art processes to stimulate improvements in productivity.

The need for high-quality, safe and healthy food continues to grow around the world, and Saskatchewan is well positioned to meet this demand. Our government is committed to supporting the expansion and development of food industries in the province, from production to processing, to research and delivery of products.

A strong agriculture value added sector will attract investment, create jobs, capture value closer to home and increase agriculture's contribution to the province's GDP. The success of this strategy will require partnership across government and industry, as well as strong leadership. I look forward to working with producers, industry groups and agri-businesses in moving our Value-Added Strategy forward. ■

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Cover: Mitch Lahoda, Shift Supervisor, InfraReady Products Ltd., pre-cooks product for the Malaysian market. For more information on the Ministry's value-added strategy, see page 13.

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# Maximizing the use of your yield monitor



Jeff Ewen, AAgr  
Irrigation Agriologist, Agronomy Services  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Technology in agriculture is continuously advancing. Almost every piece of machinery on the farm—particularly grain farms—has the ability to collect data. In many cases, there are similarities among the data collected from the air seeder, sprayer and combine. This includes coverage maps, acres, productivity and many other similar features. Harvest is a time when a large amount of important and useful data is collected, but is widely underused.



Yield monitoring can help with many aspects of your farming operation.

Almost every new combine that is manufactured today comes with a yield monitor. However, according to machinery manufacturers, yield monitoring equipment in combines is still only used to its full extent/potential by 10 to 20 per cent of producers. Much of this has to do with the fast advances in technology which producers cannot keep up with, along with time constraints for managing the data. Still, many farmers are using some aspect of their yield monitoring equipment, but are not realizing the full benefit.

A yield monitor can give the producer information that will help with almost every aspect of the farm, from agronomics to economics. The first essential part in collecting good data is making proper calibrations. Once collected, the harvest season data can be examined in the winter months and many questions can be answered. How many total bushels were harvested? What was my average yield for each crop? With this information, marketing decisions can be made more easily.

Supplemental data analysis programs and support come with yield monitoring equipment to allow further analysis. The programs allow producers to generate maps showing yield variations across the field. With this information, agronomic decisions can be made regarding problem areas that may require drainage, varying rates of fertilization, and disease or insect monitoring. Yield monitoring data is also widely used for variable rate technology to help produce fertilizer and sprayer application maps.

Yield monitoring can make your farming operation more profitable. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Jeff Ewen, Irrigation Agriologist, at 306-867-5512  
or [jeff.ewen@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.ewen@gov.sk.ca).

# Timing of pre-harvest glyphosate applications



Kim Stonehouse, MSc, PAg  
Regional Crops Specialist  
Tisdale Regional Services Branch

The two main reasons for making a pre-harvest application of glyphosate are to control perennial weeds and to help with harvest by reducing the amount of green material present in a crop.

In plants, glyphosate moves toward the active growing points. Since the majority of active growth in perennials like Canada thistle, perennial sow-thistle, quackgrass and dandelion is above-ground during spring and summer, herbicide applications made at these times usually result in top growth control only. As days become shorter in late summer and fall, the perennial plant's energy shifts to the production of new roots and root buds. Glyphosate application at this time allows more herbicide to be translocated into the roots and greatly improves the level of control.

Crops that have extreme variations in maturity can make the timing of pre-harvest applications of glyphosate challenging. Product labels indicate that application must only be made when the grain in the majority of the field is below 30 per cent moisture content. At this point, the movement of sugars (and glyphosate) into the grain stops. For most crops, this is approximately the time the crop would be swathed. If glyphosate is applied too early, the grain will fill poorly, resulting in shrunken seed, and glyphosate residues in the grain may be higher than allowable levels.

Several visual cues indicate when grain is less than 30 per cent moisture content. Descriptions of these can be found on page 183 of the 2014 *Guide to Crop Protection* on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca).



Clark Brenzil, PAg  
Provincial Specialist Weed Control  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Before deciding to make a pre-harvest glyphosate application, there are some important points to be considered:

- Glyphosate is not a desiccant and does not increase the dry-down rate of a crop.
- Not all glyphosate products are registered for all crops. Consult the label before applying.
- Buyers of crops such as malt barley or milling oat may not purchase crops treated with pre-harvest glyphosate. Check with intended buyers before application.
- Grain from crops treated with pre-harvest glyphosate should not be used for seed.

Finally, for most registered crops there is a recommended interval of seven to 14 days between treatment and harvest for optimum weed control, maximum harvest management benefit and minimal herbicide residue. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact a Regional Crops Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or  
Refer to the 2014 *Guide to Crop Protection* available online at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca) or from a Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office, rural municipal office or farm input dealer.

# Using harvest aids and products in 2014



Dale Risula, PAg  
Provincial Specialist, Special Crops  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs) for crop protection products in harvested crop is important for food safety. In Canada, an MRL is established as part of the registration process for products used. As well, there are MRLs for agricultural produce being imported into Canada. It is important for producers to be aware that MRLs are not standardized across all jurisdictions. Recognizing what MRLs exist in other countries is important to ensure market access into those countries.

Desiccants or harvest management tools are used by producers in many regions of the world to help facilitate harvest in crops with uneven maturity. Herbicides registered for application prior to harvest of pulse crops in Canada include: diquat (Reglone), glyphosate (e.g. Roundup), saflufenacil (Heat), flumioxazin (Valtera), carfentrazone (Aim, CleanStart) and glufosinate (Good Harvest).

Pulse industry representatives in Canada continue to work to provide data to support the establishment of acceptable MRLs in other countries for pesticides that are used on pulse crops here. However, it remains important for the grower to be aware of restrictions in the marketplace that may come up in any given year.

To avoid problems marketing their crop, growers who are using a desiccant or harvest aid must take appropriate steps to apply these

products properly to prevent residues from exceeding MRLs set by regulatory agencies in Canada and importing countries.

There are a number of things that producers can do to reduce risks associated with exceeding MRLs and maintain the market acceptance of their crop:

- Never exceed the labelled rate for the pesticide;
- Follow application timing as shown on the pesticide label;
- Talk to your exporter/processor about the use of harvest management tools as they pertain to international markets; and
- Investigate market considerations and status for specific pesticides.

Saskatchewan Agriculture's publication, *2014 Guide to Crop Protection*, lists all harvest aid or desiccant herbicides registered for pulse crops in Western Canada. An update is provided on May 1 of each year to accommodate late entries or changes to these products.

Generally, it's very important to talk with exporters if using a pesticide that has a low MRL in a particular country or region to avoid marketing complications later on. ■

## FOR MORE INFO

Refer to the *2014 Guide to Crop Protection*, which is available in hard copy from agricultural input retailers or Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Offices, or in electronic format on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca).

# Staging canola for fungicide applications



Lyndon Hicks, PAg  
Regional Crops Specialist, Yorkton  
Regional Services Branch

Each year, farmers have to decide whether or not their canola crop will benefit from a fungicide application. It is impossible to know for certain if you will have a fungal problem in your canola, but there are factors that will increase your risk of sclerotinia stem rot. The Canola Council of Canada has developed a disease forecasting checklist that will assist in assessing whether or not a crop is at high risk of sclerotinia infection. If the crop is at a high risk level, and yield potential and commodity price warrant protection, you could likely see a benefit from a fungicide application. "Could" is the key word, because proper crop staging and fungicide application timing is essential.

There are a number of products registered for sclerotinia control in canola. It is critical that all products be applied within the window from 20 per cent to 50 per cent bloom; however, certain products are registered for only 20 per cent to 30 per cent bloom. Optimum timing will allow the product to cover a large number of open canola flowers before the petals start to drop. Once the flower petals start to drop, stem, branch and leaf infection can occur. Canola can reach 20 per cent flower as quickly as four to five days after first flower, so close observation is required. Sclerotinia thrives in moist environments. If conditions are dry prior to early flowering, then turn wet later in the flowering window, you may benefit more from a later application (i.e. 50 per cent flowering).

Estimate the bloom/flowering percentage of main stem flowers only. At 10 per cent bloom, the main stem of the canola plant will have roughly 10 open flowers. Twenty per cent bloom will have approximately 14 to

16 open flowers on the main stem. Thirty per cent bloom will have roughly 20 open flowers, and 50 per cent bloom will have more than 20 open flowers on the main stem.

Making the decision to spray canola for sclerotinia is half the challenge, but perhaps more important is getting the product applied during the correct timing window.

For a disease forecasting checklist and more photos on canola staging, visit the following webpages:

- [www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/crops/pp1410.pdf](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/crops/pp1410.pdf)
- [www.canolawatch.org/2011/06/29/5-key-questions-about-sclerotinia-spraying/](http://www.canolawatch.org/2011/06/29/5-key-questions-about-sclerotinia-spraying/) ■

10% Bloom



20% Bloom



30% Bloom



50% Bloom



Photos courtesy of BASF

## FOR MORE INFO

Contact your Regional Crops Specialist; or  
Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

# Herbicide resistance testing



Shannon Chant, MSc, PAg  
Regional Crops Specialist, Swift Current  
Regional Services Branch

Herbicide resistant weeds are becoming a big concern in Saskatchewan. Group 2- and 9-resistant kochia has been found in the southwest and Group 2-resistant wild mustard is a problem in lentil growing regions. (A complete list of resistant weeds in Saskatchewan can be found in the 2014 *Guide to Crop Protection*.) Producers who have resistant weeds will usually see a single weed species that is normally controlled by a herbicide (or group) survive the application of that herbicide. Individual resistant plants may survive three to 100 times the normal field rate of a herbicide.

If you have herbicide-resistant weeds, it is important to identify them before they spread. Resistant-weed patches have been found in fields where producers did not know they existed.

In Saskatchewan, samples should be sent to Saskatchewan Agriculture's Crop Protection Lab in Regina for testing. One thousand seeds are required per test (two cups of clean seed for wild oat and half a cup for

kochia) and each test is \$100. Due to the need to overcome weed seed dormancy, testing occurs between January and mid June and can take up to four months to complete if retesting is needed. Samples received after March 1 will be tested in January of the following calendar year.

Seeds should be collected from weed patches that you suspect are resistant before any glyphosate is applied to the field. Glyphosate can cause seed to have germination problems and germination is part of the test done at the lab. The seed needs to be reasonably mature (minimum dough stage) to ensure germination and be stored properly after sampling and on the way to the lab. Seeds should be stored in a cloth or paper bag and kept cool and dry. Seeds kept in hot, sunny places, for example the cab of a truck, can be killed by hot temperatures. Seeds kept in plastic bags can get mouldy or rot. If poor-quality seed samples are sent in to the lab, test results will be poor quality and potentially inconclusive. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at  
[www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Crop\\_Protection\\_Lab](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Crop_Protection_Lab).

## Agri-ARM field days throughout July



Sherrilyn Phelps, MSc, PAg, CCA  
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford  
Regional Services Branch

The Agriculture Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) program, through the federal-provincial cost shared Growing Forward 2 initiative, funds a network of producer-led agricultural demonstration and research sites across Saskatchewan. The sites receive partial funding for operational costs and necessary infrastructure to support the delivery of research and demonstration activities. The objectives of the program are to increase adoption of new agricultural production technologies and

practices and to provide producers with more tools for environmental and economic decision-making.

The sites feature many different projects that are of interest to crop and forage producers. As the sites are located throughout the province and across soil zones, all producers can find information that is relevant to their growing conditions or their soil type. Each site has a summer field day that showcases the latest technologies or practices as well as provides an opportunity to hear about hot topics such as insect or disease updates. If you are a producer who likes to know about new technologies, improvements to existing practices, or if you would like to ask the experts some questions, then you should be attending your local field day or one of the Crop Diagnostic Schools. ■

### Agri-ARM field days in July

Date	Field Day	Location	Contact
July 10	Canada-SK Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) Field Day	Outlook	Dale Tomaszewicz 306-867-5412
July 16	Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC) Scott Field Day	Scott	Ashton Keller 306-247-2001 <a href="http://www.westernappliedresearch.com">www.westernappliedresearch.com</a>
July 17	Wheatland Conservation Area Inc. Field Day	Swift Current	Shannon Chant 306-778-8291
July 22	Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation (IHARF) Crop Management Field Day	Indian Head	Danny Petty 306-695-4200 <a href="http://www.iharf.ca">www.iharf.ca</a>
July 23	North East Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF) Field Day	Melfort	Kim Stonehouse 306-878-8807
July 23	South East Research Farm (SERF) Field Day	Redvers	Ted Wylie 306-452-3161
July 24	Conservation Learning Centre (CLC) Field Day	Prince Albert	Larry White 306-961-6765
July TBA	East Central Research Foundation (ECRF)	Canora	Lyndon Hicks 306-786-1508
July 22 or 23 July 29 or 30	Crop Diagnostic Schools	Scott Melfort	Shannon Friesen 306-694-3592 <a href="http://www.prairieCCA.ca">www.prairieCCA.ca</a>

# July is the time to watch for wheat midge in 2014



Scott Hartley, PAg  
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pests  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Wheat midge infestations are expected to be most severe in eastern regions of Saskatchewan as indicated in the 2014 forecast map. In areas outside eastern Saskatchewan, depending on climatic conditions, there is a risk of resurgence wherever the midge has been established.

Although early to mid-July is normally the peak period for wheat midge emergence in Saskatchewan, both temperature and precipitation play key roles in the wheat midge life cycle. A critical amount of accumulated heat units are required for the adult midge flies to complete development and emerge from the soil. Wet soils have a cooling effect and will generally result in the wheat midge flies emerging later than expected.

Low precipitation, especially less than 22 mm prior to the end of May, can delay and extend the period of midge emergence. Increased moisture conditions favour this insect. In southwestern Saskatchewan, the wheat midge has not been a regular pest but wetter conditions in recent years have resulted in a population increase and higher risk in 2014.

To determine midge populations and, if necessary the timing of an insecticide application, growers are urged to monitor wheat fields during the susceptible period (from the point when the wheat head becomes

visible as the boot splits until mid-flowering or anthesis). Checking several spots in a field will give you a better estimate of midge populations to determine if control is warranted. Regular field scouting on multiple nights in succession is important to understand population changes in a particular field. Keep in mind that temperature and wind conditions significantly influence the adult female midge's egg-laying.

For conventional wheat varieties, an insecticide application is recommended when the crop is heading and adult midge density is one midge per four to five wheat heads. To maintain optimum grade, insecticide should be used when the adult midge population reaches one per eight to 10 wheat heads. A late insecticide application, after the wheat anthers are visible, should be avoided as it is not cost effective and will harm the parasites of the wheat midge that are still active. ■



Remember to check multiple areas to get a better idea of midge levels.

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

## Scouting for blackleg in canola



Erin Campbell, MSc, PAg  
Regional Crop Specialist, Watrous  
Regional Services Branch

Image	Disease Score	Description
	0	No diseased tissue visible in the cross section
	1	Diseased tissue occupies 25% or less of cross section
	2	Diseased tissue occupies 26-50% of cross section
	3	Diseased tissue occupies 51-75% of cross section
	4	Diseased tissue occupies >75% of cross section with little or no constriction of affected tissues
	5	Diseased tissue occupies 100% of cross section with significant constriction of affected tissues; tissue dry and brittle, plant dead

Blackleg severity is scored for each plant using the following scale based on the area of diseased tissue in the cross-section.

Blackleg can infect a canola plant at any stage of its lifecycle. Seedlings can be infected by either infected seed or by spores that are spread by the wind or rain-splash. These infections are often easily missed at the cotyledon stage, but as the crop grows, symptoms will become more distinct and easier to see. In older plants, lesions can be found on the pods, stems and leaves and at the point where the leaf attaches to the stem. On the leaf, the lesions are usually round or irregularly shaped, white or brown in colour and dotted with tiny black spots called pycnidia. In wet conditions, a pink liquid can be seen oozing out of the black pycnidia spots. A more severely infected plant may have a basal stem lesion/canker that is located at or near the soil level.

If considering a fungicide application, scout the crop for early symptoms at the rosette stage, in order to determine your disease risk. Scouting for blackleg can also be done just before or at swathing while the plant still has some green colour which makes discolorations from the disease easier to see. To sample your field, collect approximately 20 plants from five different locations across the field in an 'X' or 'W' pattern. Leaves, stems and pods should be examined for any lesions or discoloration. After the visual inspection of each plant, cut the stem crosswise in half with a pair of clippers where the top of the root and the base of the stem meet. Check the inside of the plant stem cross section for any blackened tissue and use the accompanying chart to assess the amount of infection in each stem. The average severity of blackleg in that field can be calculated by adding up the total rating values of the infected stems and dividing the sum by the number of infected plants. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact your local regional crops specialist at your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture regional office or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



# Noxious weed control with goats



Nadia Mori, MSc, PAg  
Regional Forage Specialist, Watrous  
Regional Services Branch

Noxious weeds like leafy spurge, nodding thistle and scentless chamomile are an increasing concern on Saskatchewan hay land and pasture. If the weed patches are small, the most effective approach is to use the appropriate herbicide or to pull the plants immediately and dispose of them properly.

In some cases, however, an infestation may have expanded beyond the point where eradication is feasible; or the patch may be too close to water for spraying, or be situated on a steep slope or in a wooded area where spraying equipment access is limited. These cases may call for an underexploited, alternative weed management tool—the goat.

Goats are browsers while cattle are grazers. Browsers prefer to eat woody vegetation and broad-leaved plants, including weeds that cattle would commonly avoid like thistle and spurge. Because of this, goats provide an excellent alternative weed management tool with the added benefit of red meat production. A partnership between a goat and a cattle producer could prove most productive in situations where a non chemical form of weed control is economically and ecologically beneficial.

While goats will not work in all situations or for all weeds, they have been used successfully to manage leafy spurge infestations in Saskatchewan. A recent demonstration funded through the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program also showed goats' value in nodding and Canada thistle control. Another ADOPT-funded demonstration project is planned to assess the feasibility of using goats in targeted grazing of common tansy infestations.

Goats are not a quick fix. Continuous browsing pressure will be required to manage a weed infestation using goats, and goat producers must be knowledgeable and experienced in targeted grazing practices. However, the use of goats in grazing systems to assist pasture and rangeland stability is a viable sustainable land management technique.

ADOPT projects are funded by the federal and provincial governments on a 60:40 cost shared basis through the Growing Forward 2 initiative. ■



Picture from a previous ADOPT project on brush and weed management.  
Picture credit: Brian Payne.

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit the Saskatchewan Goat Breeders Association at [www.saskgoatbreeders.com](http://www.saskgoatbreeders.com);  
Visit the Canadian Meat Goat Association at [info@canadianmeatgoat.com](mailto:info@canadianmeatgoat.com)  
Contact a Regional Forage Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or  
Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

# Algae, cyanobacteria and water quality



Alicia Sopatyk, BSA, AAg  
Regional Livestock Specialist, Tisdale  
Regional Services Branch

Algae can be an indicator of water quality; their abundance and composition most often reflects chemical properties of water (pH and nutrient levels). Algae grow rapidly in warm stagnant water that is high in nitrogen and phosphate. This can lead to dramatic changes in appearance, taste and odour of the water. It is important to be able to distinguish which type of algae is present, if it has any harmful properties, and what treatment options are available.

Cyanobacteria, often referred to as "blue green algae", are a significant concern for livestock owners. Cyanobacteria can produce lethal neurotoxins (brain toxins) or hepatotoxins (liver toxins) which can cause serious illness or death in livestock if the toxins are ingested. Cyanotoxins can cause general weakness, scours, mental derangement, muscle tremors, suffocation, stiffness, coma and death in livestock. Cyanobacteria blooms can look like foam mats or scum. Their colour can range from blue-green to brown. They can have a sheen that makes them look like paint floating on the surface of the water, and heavy blooms can have a consistency similar to pea soup.

The largest release of toxin occurs when cyanobacteria die. Cooler weather, rainfall, wind and treatment can kill cyanobacteria. If a producer applies a treatment to kill the cyanobacteria, livestock should be removed for a minimum of two weeks to ensure there are no, or at least minimal, remnants of toxins in the water source.

Water is an essential nutrient for livestock; its quality can have production, health and welfare implications. Treating the water can offer a short term solution, but the root of the problem should be explored, for example nutrient load via runoff or direct access by livestock. The type of algae will indicate the most appropriate treatment method. Some control options for algae include copper sulphate (blue stone), coagulation, aeration/mixing, physical removal, remote watering systems and other beneficial management practices. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact the Regional Livestock Specialist at the nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office; or  
Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



# Stop grazing six weeks before a killing frost to preserve the health of the forage stand



Terry Kowalchuk, M.Sc., PAg  
Provincial Forage Specialist  
Crops and Irrigation Branch

As we head into the fall season, a common question is "Can I graze or cut my hay and/or pasture in the fall?" The answer is: "It depends on how well you can predict the future".

Most hay and pasture species have a critical period in late summer during which they should not be cut or grazed. This period is typically six weeks prior to a killing frost. During this time, forage species are actively storing carbohydrates in their crowns and roots. These energy stores are necessary to survive the winter (plant maintenance) and to initiate spring growth. If a plant is grazed or hayed during late summer, it begins to use stored carbohydrates to initiate regrowth. This decreases the energy status of the plant going into winter and weakens the stand, which can increase the risk of weed, insect or disease infestations and make it more susceptible to winterkill.

As a precaution to ensure that plants have good energy reserves heading into winter, they should not be harvested after August 15; this is especially important for perennial legumes. Legumes such as alfalfa are more susceptible to winterkill, so late-season grazing or haying of a mixed alfalfa grass stand can shift the stand composition in favour of more



Managing year end carryover is the key to a healthy stand.

grasses. Since alfalfa plants have the ability to fix nitrogen and provide much of the feed value in a mixed stand, any decrease in the number of alfalfa plants will decrease a stand's overall value and productivity.

Late grazing or second-cut haying also decreases the stand's ability to capture snow. Snow provides the plant with insulation, which not only prevents winterkill, but also provides much needed moisture for the stand in the spring. Winterkill is often the result of freeze/thaw cycles and ice sheeting. By decreasing the snow layer, there is greater potential for the crown to be exposed and damaged by freeze/thaw cycles and ice sheeting.

Forages can be harvested after a killing frost, as this will not reduce root reserves. However, here again, you should keep in mind that by decreasing the stubble height of the stand, you will decrease the amount of snow captured and increase the risk of winterkill.

So, before you decide to take the next cut or if you are thinking about turning the cows out in late August, remember, it may be worth reserving the carryover in order to preserve the overall health and productivity of your pasture or hay stand. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

## The effect of harvest timing on forage quality



Dwayne Summach, M.Sc., PAg  
Regional Livestock Specialist, Kindersley  
Regional Services Branch

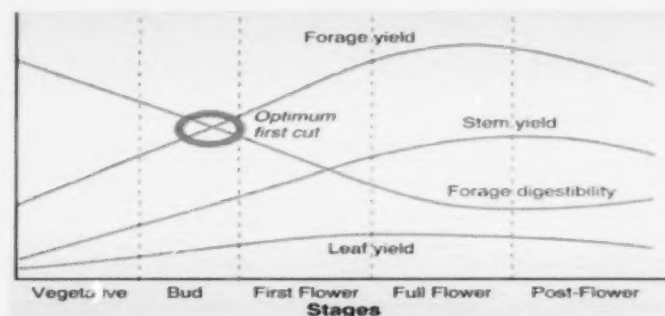
Many factors affect the quality of preserved forage. Species selection, soil type, fertility, weather and storage format all affect the quality of forage. The most important factor is the stage of plant development at cutting.

The best time to cut alfalfa grass for beef cow maintenance hay is when 10 alfalfa stems out of 100 have a visible flower (10 per cent bloom). Grass hay should be cut at heading to early bloom to make hay capable of beef cow maintenance. When hay is cut at stages later than these, it needs to be tested and fed as part of a balanced ration.

As forage plants grow and increase in yield, the quality of the forage declines. Most producers target the optimum combination of yield and quality to feed their livestock. Dairy producers target higher quality forages because this produces more milk. They target a Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150 to 180 or greater. Beef producers consider yield to be more important. Maintenance of the mature beef herd can be achieved with hay with a RFV of 110 to 130. Growth and development of weaned calves and replacement heifers requires hay with a RFV of 130 to 150.

Due to respiration losses and leaf loss, the RFV of packaged hay will be 20 to 30 points lower than the fresh forage at the time of cutting. Additional quality losses will occur through the leaching of nutrients if the forage is rained on. The typical rate of quality decline around the harvest period is

three to seven RFV points for every day the plants are allowed to grow. The time lag between harvesting dairy-quality hay and beef-quality hay is only seven to 10 days – fewer if the hay is going to be used for feeding calves, replacements or lactating cows. ■



The optimum time for first cut usually occurs at the late-bud or early flower stage.

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact a Regional Livestock Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office.  
Or visit [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/production/forages/pubs/high\\_quality\\_hay\\_mgmt.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/production/forages/pubs/high_quality_hay_mgmt.pdf).

# Malignant Catarrhal Fever



Dr. Wendy Wilkins, DVM, PhD  
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian  
Livestock Branch

Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) is a viral disease that affects mainly ruminant species world-wide. In North America, it is usually caused by ovine (sheep) herpesvirus 2 (OvHV 2). OvHV 2 does not cause illness in sheep, but can spread to other ruminants causing MCF in those animals. Bison are particularly susceptible to MCF. Although not all bison that are exposed to the virus go on to develop MCF, all bison that do become clinically ill eventually die from the disease.

The virus is shed in the nasal secretions of carrier sheep and can be spread to other ruminants through direct contact; however, the virus also becomes aerosolized (airborne) and can spread to other animals over distances. Infected lambs between five and nine months (weaning/post-weaning) shed more virus and pose the greatest risk of spreading the virus. MCF does not spread from bison to bison. There is no vaccine to prevent MCF in bison, nor is there a vaccine for the virus in sheep.

In general, increasing the distance between sheep and bison reduces the risk. To date, there is still no definitive science on what a "safe" distance is. This is because the risk of MCF depends on many factors besides distance,

such as the age of the sheep, the size of the flock or herd, and other factors such as climate, wind and temperature. In some cases, bison have been known to be pastured next to sheep without problem. In general, though, the risk of MCF increases the closer the bison are to sheep, with increasing numbers of animals of either species and with the presence of stressors such as other disease, poor feed, crowded conditions, etc.

MCF rarely occurs in Saskatchewan—typically, only one or two cases are diagnosed in a year. Nevertheless, the potential for disease transmission can be a troubling issue for sheep and bison producers alike. In almost all cases, MCF can be minimized or prevented using the "good neighbour" policy. Examples include working together to coordinate pasture rotation to maximize distance between the species, especially the weaned lambs, and notifying each other about high-stress activities such as processing and weaning. Minimizing stress in both species is especially important—this reduces virus shedding by the sheep, and reduces susceptibility in the bison. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Dr. Wendy Wilkins, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, at 306-798-0253 or [wendy.wilkins@gov.sk.ca](mailto:wendy.wilkins@gov.sk.ca); or Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca) and look under Livestock|Other Livestock|Bison.

## How to choose the right mineral for summer pasture and tips for encouraging intake



Naomi Paley, BSA, PAG  
Regional Livestock Specialist, Yorkton  
Regional Services Branch

For many cow-calf producers, free choice feeding of vitamins and minerals is the only way to supplement their animals on summer pastures. Field studies have demonstrated that free-choice intake can be highly variable; however, there are things you can do to manage and reduce this variability. "Free choice" doesn't mean "set it and forget it". Supplement intake needs to be monitored. During the grazing season, mineral and salt are very important for gestating cows and growing calves. Most pastures do not contain adequate levels or balances of macro- and trace minerals.

Consider some of the following ideas for improving intake:

1. Intake is usually better with loose rather than block supplements.
2. Mixing loose mineral with salt, dried molasses or protein supplements can increase intake.
3. Put out small amounts frequently to keep the supplements fresh.
4. Locate the mineral feeders in areas where cattle tend to congregate, and make sure there are enough for all cattle to have sufficient access (one feeder per 50 animals).
5. Read the label. Calculate how long it should take your cattle to go through a bag when they are eating the recommended amount each day. Normal daily intake for mature cows is two to four ounces per head.

There is a lot of confusion when it comes to determining the type of mineral that is best suited to your situation. Mineral supplements are usually categorized by a number describing the ratio of calcium to phosphorous in them (i.e. 1:1, 2:1, 3:1). Generally legume forages (alfalfa type) are higher in calcium; grass forages are lower in calcium. We need

to keep the ratio of calcium to phosphorous in the total diet at a minimum of 2:1 (twice as much calcium as phosphorous). If you are grazing a grass pasture with little or no legumes, you may consider using a 2:1 or adding some limestone to your 1:1 mineral to bring up the level of calcium.

Once you have established the appropriate type of mineral to use according to the forage type being grazed, you need to select a product with adequate levels of trace minerals. The following table is a quick reference guide to selecting minerals or trace mineral salt of suitable trace element content. ■

### Guide to Selecting Minerals of Suitable Trace Element Content

Mineral	Recommended Range (mg/kg)
Copper	2,000–3,000
Zinc	10,000–12,000
Manganese	8,000–10,000
Iodine	70–200
Cobalt	40–60
Selenium*	30–80

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact a Regional Livestock Specialist at a nearby Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office.

# Tame pasture scorecard



Lorne Klein, PAg  
Regional Forage Specialist, Weyburn  
Regional Services Branch

The health and productivity of seeded pastures is largely influenced by grazing management practices. To help producers assess their management practices, the website [Foragebeef.ca](http://Foragebeef.ca) provides a user friendly scorecard that lists nine indicators to consider and rate while viewing a tame pasture during summer.

The **Plant Population** of the stand should be dominated by adapted, productive and deep-rooted forage species. Lower-scoring pastures are often invaded with low-forage-producing species with shallow roots such as Kentucky bluegrass. The **Plant Density** of the desired species should leave less than five per cent of the ground bare to limit the invasion of weeds and low-producing forages. **Good Plant Vigour** ensures the stand will produce to its full potential. Weak plants are slow to grow, compete poorly with weeds and inefficiently convert water, nutrients and sunlight to forage.

**Legumes Present** is critical because legumes can fix a significant portion of their own nitrogen. Ideally, legumes should produce 30 to 40 per cent of the forage volume. At less than five per cent of the forage volume, there will be minimal impact on forage production.

**Weeds and Brush Present** will reduce forage production. Vigorous, competitive stands have a significantly greater chance of resisting



Left: vigorous healthy stand. Right: weak stand with excessive bare soil.

invasion of undesirable plants. Having 20 per cent or more of the ground covered with weeds and brush is considered excessive.

**Ground and Litter Cover** from growing and decaying plant material reduces evaporation and improves water infiltration and water-holding capacity. Ideally, there should be no bare soil visible. Noticeable **Soil Damage** caused by either wind or water erosion on bare soil needs immediate correction.

Manure and urine from grazing animals should be deposited relatively uniformly across the pasture for proper **Nutrient Cycling**. Cross fencing can help reduce loitering and excessive nutrient build-up around trees. It also facilitates more uniform grazing and nutrient deposition, especially across a varied landscape.

**Severity and Uniformity of Use** cannot necessarily be judged during a single inspection, but can be assessed over the season. Continuous heavy grazing results in shallow roots and weak plants with low forage production. A good grazing management plan will schedule adequate rest periods during summer so the desirable forage plants are able to recover from grazing and produce to their potential.

The Alberta Tame Pasture Scorecard is available at [www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca). ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Lorne Klein, Regional Forage Specialist at 306-848-2382 or [lorne.klein@gov.sk.ca](mailto:lorne.klein@gov.sk.ca); or Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or [aginfo@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aginfo@gov.sk.ca).

# Lead toxicity in cattle



Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe, DVM, MVetSc  
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian  
Animal Health Unit, Livestock Branch

Lead poisoning continues to be one of the most predominant toxicities encountered in cattle and a cause of significant economic loss for beef and dairy producers. Currently, the primary source of lead on the Prairies is discarded vehicle batteries.

Symptoms of lead poisoning in cattle include neurological signs such as depression, stumbling or difficulty walking, blindness and seizures. The most severely affected animals die within 24 hours of the initial onset of clinical signs, but some animals may die up to two weeks after exposure. Not all animals exposed to the lead will develop symptoms; some may appear to be perfectly normal even though the level of lead in their blood is high. The only way to be certain which animals were exposed to lead is a blood test.

Because lead is heavy, pieces of lead can become stuck in the cow's stomach. These pieces slowly release lead into the cow's body over a long period of time. Lead is deposited in the kidneys, liver and bone, and is excreted in the milk, urine and feces. The time it takes to eliminate lead from the body is highly variable. In some cases, animals have been found to have lead levels above the acceptable limit years after the exposure.



Be diligent in finding and removing toxic materials such as batteries and paint as cattle are likely to consume almost anything.

Livestock producers need to ensure that cattle do not have access to lead by removing discarded batteries, old oil, paint, shingles and other sources of lead. Lead levels should be considered "safe" before exposed or treated animals go to slaughter. Meat and milk from lead-poisoned cattle should not be used for food.

If lead toxicity is suspected, the herd's veterinarian may consult with the Disease Investigation Unit at

Saskatchewan Agriculture for assistance in identifying cattle with unacceptable levels of lead. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Dr. LeeAnn Forsythe, Disease Surveillance Veterinarian, at 306-787-6069 or [leeann.forsythe@gov.sk.ca](mailto:leeann.forsythe@gov.sk.ca).



# Researchers use crop by-products as cattle feed alternative

Using the by-products of industrial crop processing (i.e. dried distillers grains, pea and oat hulls, grain and canola screenings) to produce blended feed products for the cow-calf and cattle feeding sectors can help further develop Saskatchewan's value-added rural economy.

Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) worked with the Western Beef Development Centre (WBDC) and West Central Pelleting to develop a new and innovative way to feed cattle by producing strategically blended feed pellets for the cow-calf and cattle feeding industries in Saskatchewan. Funding for the project was provided by the Agriculture Development Fund and the Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program to cover the research and development portions, and industry assistance was given by West Central Pelleting.

These new products are targeted at specific sectors of the cattle industry and were developed from by-products of the industrial processing of pulses, oilseeds and cereal grains. The work at WBDC focused on feeding the blended pellets to yearlings grazing stockpiled forage and in wintering cow rations and was funded through the Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program.

Over a series of trials, the project evaluated the benefit of the feed pellets to the cattle industry. The first two trials took place at the University of Saskatchewan and involved feeding strategically blended high fat feed pellets to backgrounding calves (Trial 1) and yearling steers (Trial 2) as a replacement for barley. In trials 3 and 4, carried out at the WBDC, yearling steers were supplemented with blended pellets while grazing stockpiled crested wheat grass pastures.

In Trial 3, the treatments included an unsupplemented control (just pasture), or supplementation with either a low-starch pellet high in degradable fibre or a high-starch, low-fibre pellet. The fourth trial looked at supplementing a high-fat pellet daily (or on alternate days) at two levels of intake for yearlings grazing stockpiled pastures. The fifth trial took place at the U of S and compared a high-fat finishing pellet to barley grain.

The results of the first two trials showed that the high-fat pellet can be a good alternative to barley grain for supplementing energy and protein in backgrounding diets. Cattle were given low-concentrate and high-forage diets to achieve modest growth in order to promote muscle and skeletal development, while minimizing fat deposition. In both trials, steers showed increased feed intake when fed the high-fat pellet, and had similar or slightly decreased gains. This translated to reduced feed efficiency for cattle fed high fat pellets. It should be noted, however, that despite reduced feed efficiency, cattle fed the blended pellets performed in a cost-efficient manner with strong gains, meaning that the high-fat pellet offered potential cost savings as a replacement for barley in backgrounding programs. In both trials, there was a reduction in feed costs when the high fat pellets were used. This was credited to the relatively good performance of the pellet-fed cattle and the low cost of the ingredients used in making the pellet. The research indicates, however, that the lower cost of these pellets needs to be balanced against the potential for reduced feed efficiency.

In the first grazing study, two pellets that differed in rumen available energy were compared to a control where yearling steers just had access to stockpiled crested wheat grass. The pellets were supplemented at 0.6 per cent of body weight. It was shown that daily gain on pasture and final body weight were significantly improved by pellet supplementation regardless of pellet type.

While supplementation increased the cost of gain, economic modeling indicated that the value of the increased performance more than offset the additional cost. The objective of the fourth trial was to evaluate alternate day feeding of pellets at two levels of intake in order to reduce supplementation costs. The results showed that, while supplementation costs were reduced, performance was not influenced by supplementation frequency and there was no benefit on net returns from alternate-day feeding in this case.

In the fifth trial, researchers determined the effects of replacing barley grain with a high fat finishing pellet, supplemented with fat from canola fines, on finishing performance and carcass quality in finishing steers. The researchers found that high-fat pellets can be used as a partial replacement for barley grain, but that this replacement for barley decreased feed efficiency and increased dry matter intake. This could be related to changes in ruminal fermentation, nutrient absorption and usage, and associated effects on major chemical components in the diet. Further studies with these finishing pellets are being conducted. It is clear, however, that adopting high fat pellets into both backgrounding and finishing programs in the feedlot will be based largely on the supply and price of cereal grains.

Conclusions from this project indicate that strategically blended high fat feed pellets can be a viable alternative for supplementing energy and protein in both backgrounding and finishing diets, as well as in grazing situations in which pasture quantity or quality is limited. Results indicate that cattle fed blended pellets as a whole or partial replacement for barley in backgrounding or finishing programs will exhibit similar to slightly lower body weight gains and slightly higher levels of dry matter intake. As a result, feed efficiency may be poorer when blended pellets are fed. Despite these differences relative to barley fed cattle, the performance of cattle fed the pellets in both the backgrounding and finishing phases was excellent and extremely cost-efficient, with a savings ranging from \$10 to \$30 per head depending on the type of cattle. In grazing situations where pasture quality or quantity is limited, blended pellets can be used as a cost efficient supplement to provide both protein and energy to grazing cattle without influencing forage usage. Ultimately, the economics of feeding strategically blended pellets will depend on availability and price relative to other feed sources such as cereal grains.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

In 2014, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada committed \$11.2 million in new funding for 73 ADF research projects through Growing Forward 2, a federal provincial-territorial initiative. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search) and enter the report number #20090340 into the search function.

## REBATE AVAILABLE ON APPROVED GOPHER CONTROL PRODUCTS

The Gopher Control Rebate Program provides assistance to farmers, ranchers, rural municipalities (RMs) and First Nations to help cover the cost of controlling gophers. The program rebates 50 per cent of the cost of purchasing approved gopher control products.

Gopher damage to crop and forage land in many parts of Saskatchewan can be extensive. To limit damage, many producers across the province purchase significant quantities of gopher control products. The two per cent strychnine formulation received permanent federal registration in 2012.

Rebate program application forms are available from RM offices and Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Offices, as well as online at: [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Gopher-Rebate](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Gopher-Rebate). Deadline for applications is November 30, 2014. ■



# Safeguarding animal health and the environment are part of the Livestock Strategy



Grant Zalinko  
Manager, Livestock Development Unit  
Livestock Branch

The Livestock Strategy consists of three pillars: **Competitiveness, Safeguards and Market Expansion**. This article will elaborate on the **Safeguards** pillar where government plays an important role in protecting the health of animals and the environment.

The Animal Health Unit in the Livestock Branch is responsible for **safeguarding** animal health through education, awareness and programming. Enhanced biosecurity, disease surveillance programs and diagnostic capacity are critical to minimizing the effect of a disease outbreak in the province. Bovine viral diarrhoea and John's disease screening and control programs are in place to help Saskatchewan cattle producers detect and control these serious production limiting diseases.

The provincial premises identification database is another important initiative currently being developed to **safeguard** the health of animals in the province. Once complete and populated, the database will be the first line of defence in managing a disease outbreak in the province. All Saskatchewan livestock producers are encouraged to contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 to register their premises.

The Agricultural Operations Unit in the Livestock Branch is responsible for ensuring that intensive livestock operations (ILOs) in the province operate in accordance with *The Agricultural Operations Act*. This legislation was enacted to **safeguard** water resources in the province. Staff in the Agriculture Operations Unit work with ILOs to ensure their plans are in compliance with regulatory requirements.

The Farm Stewardship Program is another example of government's commitment to **safeguarding** the environment. Funding for the Farm Stewardship Program is provided under the federal-provincial-territorial Growing Forward 2 framework. Saskatchewan producers can apply for funding to offset the cost of relocating a livestock facility, controlling farmyard runoff and building fences around riparian areas.

The Livestock Strategy is a living document and includes action items the Ministry of Agriculture is working on to help develop the livestock sector. An overview of the Livestock Strategy, including examples of the other pillars, can be viewed at [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Livestock-Strategy](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Livestock-Strategy) ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Grant Zalinko PAg, Livestock Branch, 306-787-6607 or [grant.zalinko@gov.sk.ca](mailto:grant.zalinko@gov.sk.ca).

**Saskatchewan Agriculture has developed a Livestock Strategy to guide policy and program development that will achieve the goal of increasing annual livestock farm cash receipts by 25 per cent to more than \$2 billion. The Livestock Strategy consists of three pillars: Competitiveness, Safeguards and Market Expansion. This article deals with Safeguards.**

## Adding value to agriculture in Saskatchewan



Penny McCall, BSA, MSc, PAg  
Manager, Value-Added Unit  
Regional Services Branch

The Saskatchewan Government is committed to meeting the challenges of an increasing global demand for food, feed and fuel. We are well on our way to meeting our goals, with record crop production of 38.4 million tonnes and agri-food exports totaling \$11.7 billion in 2013.

Saskatchewan's strength has always been the quality and quantity of the grains and oilseeds we produce. But are we exporting opportunities along with our raw commodities?

Although Saskatchewan has often been referred to as the 'breadbasket to the world', in actual fact, Saskatchewan produces little bread as most of the grain is exported in raw form to other regions that capitalize on the value-added activity. This one example illustrates lost economic activity for the province, a situation that repeats for most other crops and livestock produced here.

The exception is the canola crush industry, which has grown over the past seven years to a total crush capacity of almost four million tonnes. This in turn has an economic impact on the province of more than a half billion dollars when all the direct and indirect spin-offs are considered.

Can such value-added opportunities be captured for other crops and livestock? The simple answer is yes, but how we get there is the challenge. To help overcome the challenges, the provincial government has developed a Value-Added Strategy with the goal to capture economic value beyond primary production through processing and innovation. The target is to increase the total revenue from the value added sector to \$6 billion by 2020, which is a 40 per cent increase over 2012.

The Value-Added Strategy outlines activities to create a competitive environment, provide the critical research and infrastructure framework, and promote the trade required to attract investment and expand the agricultural value-added industry. Saskatchewan is at an advantage as we produce a diversity of crops, including oilseeds, pulses, cereals, mustard, spices and horticultural crops, from which a wide range of proteins, fibres, starches, sugars and antioxidants can be obtained. Given the range of crops grown in Saskatchewan, we are well positioned to benefit from the current trends shaping the food industry by providing healthy, quality and innovative food ingredients. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Penny McCall, Manager, Value-Added Unit, at 306-787-9112 or [penny.mccall@gov.sk.ca](mailto:penny.mccall@gov.sk.ca).

# New electronic forms and other enhancements to the Livestock Loan Guarantee Program

Judy MacMillan  
Provincial Supervisor, Livestock Loan Guarantee Program  
Financial Programs Branch

The Livestock Loan Guarantee Program provides Saskatchewan producers with access to financing to help with the expansion of their feeding operations and cow herds through feeder/breeder associations.

The program has made several changes this winter to improve and simplify administration. Associations will now be able to fax or send in scanned copies of purchase documents and applications for their member producers instead of having to rely on regular mail or priority post. This will reduce the turnaround time for getting new purchases completed and the cash back to their members. The program has also updated the manual and forms into more user-friendly formats that are accessible online. The manual and forms can be found on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website — [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca) — under the Programs and Services heading.

The program increased the individual cattle member maximum limits to \$500,000 from \$300,000 under the Cattle Feeder, and to \$500,000 from

\$200,000 under the Cattle Breeder option. The combined individual maximum limit under both options has been raised from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

For bison producers, the individual member maximum limit has been raised from \$200,000 to \$500,000 under the feeder option, and from \$125,000 to \$500,000 under the breeder option. The combined individual maximum limit under both options has been raised from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

The corporate maximum loan limit under all species and options has been raised from \$300,000 to \$1.5 million.

The Livestock Loan Guarantee Program will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the province's livestock producers and encourage the growth of the province's livestock industry by giving livestock producers another financing option when purchasing livestock or building or expanding feedlots. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Call the Financial Programs Branch at 306-787-5275.

## Appraising crop yields before harvest

As producers in Saskatchewan can attest, the success of a crop is largely dependent on the weather, and weather in Saskatchewan can be highly variable day to day and year to year. One year farmers may experience excess moisture, another year, hail damage or early frost. It is also different in each region of the province; however, if you have multi peril Crop Insurance, you're covered.

The Crop Insurance Program gives each customer the flexibility to decide how to best use the production from their insured acres, to meet the specific conditions on their farm and their individual management plan. If you suffer from a weather event this summer and do not believe it is in your best interest to harvest the crop, contact the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to register a pre harvest claim. After SCIC conducts a pre harvest appraisal, you can put your acres to use, excluding harvest activities such as baling or grazing.

While SCIC does not make you harvest your crop, it does not write off your crop either. A pre-harvest appraisal captures the salvage value of the crop as there may be some potential value. It is this value that must be appraised if the crop will not be harvested. The appraisal is used in the calculation of any subsequent claims.

SCIC asks that you accompany the adjuster during any inspections. An adjuster will determine a yield based on plant counts and will also count the number of seeds per plant if the crop was headed out. The adjuster will record and explain all the information to you.

Inspections will be processed when you inform SCIC the crop has been put to a use other than harvest, which SCIC may verify. If you decide to leave the crop for harvest, the actual harvested production will be used in the calculation of a claim.

Depending on the circumstances, SCIC may not immediately conduct an inspection. Some crops have the ability to recover from damage, especially after early hail storms. Crop recovery is often dependent on weather conditions and SCIC may need additional time to be able to accurately appraise yield following a storm.

### Reporting stored grain

Reporting stored grain to SCIC is extremely important this year given current transportation issues of getting grain to market. There is a lot of

grain producers have been unable to move, which is why SCIC is urging producers to report their stored grain as soon as possible.

Any stored grain not reported on your Stored Grain Declaration will be considered new production in the event of a yield-loss claim. You are required to report all stored grain on the separate form enclosed with your Seeded Acreage Report package. Providing your stored grain information will result in more accurate claim payments. Your completed Stored Grain Declaration must have been submitted to SCIC by June 25 with your Seeded Acreage Report. However, if you missed this deadline, SCIC still wants you to report your stored grain; this information is very important. If your reported information changes after June 25, contact your Customer Service Office to update your stored grain information. Updates must be made before harvest begins. Additional forms and information are available at your local Crop Insurance office.

If your production is mixed with that of another producer, either in sales or storage, yield-loss claims will be averaged among individual producers.

With the redesigned CropConnect tool, customers can enter stored grain information online from a home computer or mobile device. This added flexibility provides producers with the opportunity to report stored grain information at their convenience, knowing once it is entered online, by the deadline, SCIC will have the right information to accurately assess any future claims. Producers can also use CropConnect to enter insurance selections, estimate costs, fill out Seeded Acreage Reports, Production Declarations and file a post-harvest claim. ■

## Growing Forward 2

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact the nearest Crop Insurance office;  
Call 1-888-935-0000; or  
Visit [www.saskcropinsurance.com](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com).

# Agriculture Value-Added Industry Workshop and Networking Event

Penny McCall, BSA, MSc, PAg  
Manager, Value-Added Unit  
Regional Services Branch

The Ministry of Agriculture, along with the Ministry of the Economy, hosted a networking event on April 10 in Saskatoon for Saskatchewan based agri-processing companies. The purpose was to create a buzz about the successes value-added processing has had in the province, discuss the opportunities that could drive growth in this important sector, and better understand the challenges that must be overcome to ensure our province's agri-businesses continue to expand and attract new investment.

The event began with a workshop, including presentations on the provincial government's programs and services that support the value-added industry and an update on federal food safety regulations. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Brooke Dobni on what it takes for a company to be innovative, find a marketing edge and stay ahead in a highly competitive marketplace. The workshop ended with a panel discussion on the agri-processing research and commercialization capacity in the province through the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, POS Biosciences and the Department of Food

and Bioproduct Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. The panel discussion showcased the diverse products that can be created from the cereals, pulses, oilseeds and fruit grown in the province, ranging from natural ingredients, healthy oils and antioxidants, to starches, alternate protein sources and non-allergenic ingredients.

The workshop was followed by a networking event, led by Minister of Agriculture, Lyle Stewart, who expressed appreciation for the entrepreneurs already driving the value added sector in the province. The Minister committed that government programs and services would be made available to support agribusiness in their endeavors, investments and innovation.

There were approximately 80 people at this event, representing agribusiness, research, government and other industry stakeholders excited about adding value to agriculture in Saskatchewan. Although this was an inaugural event, those who attended have recommended that it become a routine event to encourage learning and networking. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Contact Penny McCall, Manager, Value-added Unit, at 306-787-9112 or penny.mccall@gov.sk.ca.

## Supergrid road pilot project will accommodate year-round heavy loads

Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure

Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure is launching two pilot projects this year that will result in nearly 37 kilometres of rural highway being upgraded to supergrid roads and allow shippers and farmers to move heavy loads year round.

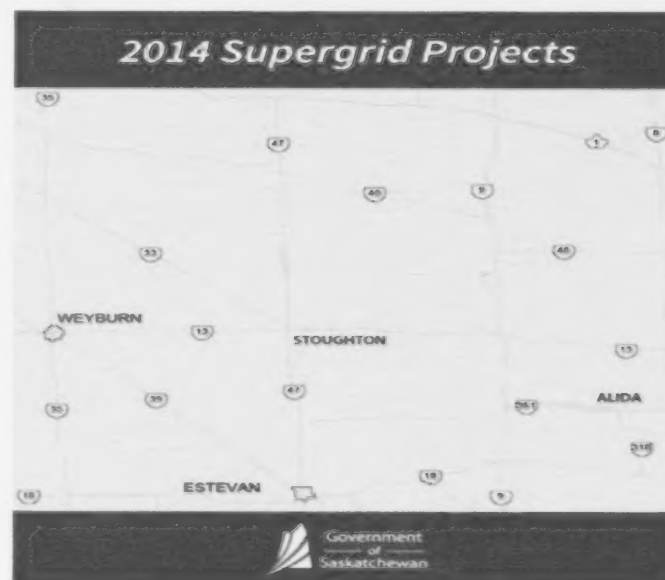
Many highways across Saskatchewan are subject to weight restrictions during the spring thaw, but the supergrid pilot projects on highways #361 and #47 will see low-traffic-volume, poor-condition roads upgraded to safer, full primary weight supergrids that are no longer subject to weight restrictions.

Supergrids come in at half of the cost of primary-weight pavement and have been used successfully in Alberta and other jurisdictions. These wider grid roads built on an engineered base can accommodate the heaviest allowable payloads. The two supergrid projects, which are planned for construction this year, are:

- 31 km of Highway #361 from the junction of Highway #9 east to Alida; and
- 5.5 km of Highway #47, 20 km north of Stoughton.

The 2014-15 provincial budget announced in March includes \$664.5 million to build, operate and maintain Saskatchewan's highway and transportation system. This represents an increase of \$88.5 million over the previous year, and includes \$50 million in unspent appropriation from last year that is being rolled into the 2014-15 budget.

Since 2011, the province has invested \$1.8 billion in transportation, well ahead of the pace to meet the government's commitment to invest \$2.2 billion over four years. ■



# Events calendar

Date	Event	Location	Phone	Internet
July 3-7, 2014	Junior Ag Showcase	Prairieland Park Saskatoon, SK	306-931-7149	<a href="http://www.saskatoonex.com/juniorag/">www.saskatoonex.com/juniorag/</a>
July 5, 2014	Deadline to report seeded greenfeed acres	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	<a href="http://www.saskcropinsurance.com">www.saskcropinsurance.com</a>
July 7 – August 15, 2014	Agriculture Operator Module 3	Parkland College Yorkton, SK	1-866-457-2377	<a href="http://www.Saskatchewan.ca/GrowingForward2">www.Saskatchewan.ca/GrowingForward2</a>
July 10, 2014	Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre Field Day	Outlook, SK	306-385-9301	<a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca">www.agr.gc.ca</a>
July 16, 2014	Scott Research Farm Annual Field Day	Scott Research Farm Scott, SK	306-385-9301	<a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca">www.agr.gc.ca</a>
July 22-23, 2014	Crop Diagnostic School	Scott Research Farm Scott, SK	1-866-457-2377	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca</a>
July 22, 2014	Indian Head Crop Management Field Day	Indian Head, SK	306-695-4200	<a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca">www.agr.gc.ca</a>
July 23, 2014	Melfort Crops Field Day	Melfort Research Farm Melfort, SK	306-752-2776	<a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca">www.agr.gc.ca</a>
July 29-30, 2014	Crop Diagnostic School	Melfort Research Farm Melfort, SK	1-866-457-2377	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca</a>
August 7, 2014	Saskatchewan Pasture Tour	Yorkton, Kelliher, Ituna and Touchwood Hills, SK	306-781-9200	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca</a>
August 25, 2014	Deadline to select winterkill coverage for fall rye and winter wheat	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	<a href="http://www.saskcropinsurance.com">www.saskcropinsurance.com</a>

## Career SnapShot Day



Brady Kapovic  
Junior Communications Consultant  
Agriculture Awareness Unit, Regional Services Branch

Agriculture awareness starts with us telling our story with enthusiasm, optimism and accuracy. This can be a casual conversation at the grocery store or, in the case of South Country Equipment in Emerald Park, having a class of high school students visit the dealership and learn about the industry, hands-on.

That's just what a group of high school students, teachers and guidance counsellors from Mossbank and Moose Jaw did. Once at the dealership, the students were broken up into groups to learn about different aspects of the business. The day consisted of seminars and scenarios that covered areas related to technology, parts and service, training, selling and a new interactive JD Link technology that allows technicians to diagnose and possibly fix issues with a producer's equipment wirelessly and right from the shop in Emerald Park.

The Ministry's Agriculture Awareness Unit also spoke to students about the opportunities across the industry, in addition to those in the farm implement sector, as part of the *thinkAG* campaign.



Human Resources Manager of South Country Equipment Drew Watson talks to students about the many careers choices available in agriculture today.

Teachers, counselors and students were all equally impressed with the many opportunities present in the industry. Students were surveyed before and after the event and the results show:

- Sixty per cent of students considered a career in agriculture, up 10 per cent from before the event.
- Sixty-five per cent of students believed career pathways in agriculture are increasing and 30 per cent said opportunities were exploding, up 20 per cent.
- Student's sources of information regarding future career paths are split between career development counselors, teachers and parents.

If your school is interested in a career day or if you have a similar idea or project that aims to help improve the public perception of Saskatchewan agriculture or promote careers in the industry to youth, you may be eligible to apply for funding through the Ministry's Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program. ■

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

Visit [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-AgAwareness](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-AgAwareness); or  
Email [awareness@gov.sk.ca](mailto:awareness@gov.sk.ca).